



THE CAVALRY CHARGE

LIVE THE LEGEND

<http://pao.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/>

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3

~America's First Team~

FEBRUARY 25, 2011

Stacking the deck: *Black Jack infantrymen solidify field skills*

By Spc. Justin Naylor
2nd BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div.

But for infantry Soldiers, working well as a team can mean the difference between life and death in a combat zone.

For the Soldiers of the Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, squad and team training February 16-17 was an opportunity to practice teamwork while working on their basic infantry skills.

During the first day of the training, Soldiers took part in a total of eight stations that focused on weapon maintenance, engaging with a weapon, performing counter improvised-explosive device measures, reacting to contact, escalation of force rules, and other skills that are vital while on a foot patrol.

"This is a chance for us to make sure the new guys know their jobs," explained Spc. Charles

FORT HOOD, Texas — No matter what your job is in the Army, there is going to be an element of teamwork to what you do.

Wright, a Liberty Hills, Texas native and a team leader.

The Soldiers began the training by moving as a squad-sized element through tall brush and lightly forested areas. Upon leaving the forest, Soldiers were engaged by a two-man enemy element, which they had to eliminate or detain.

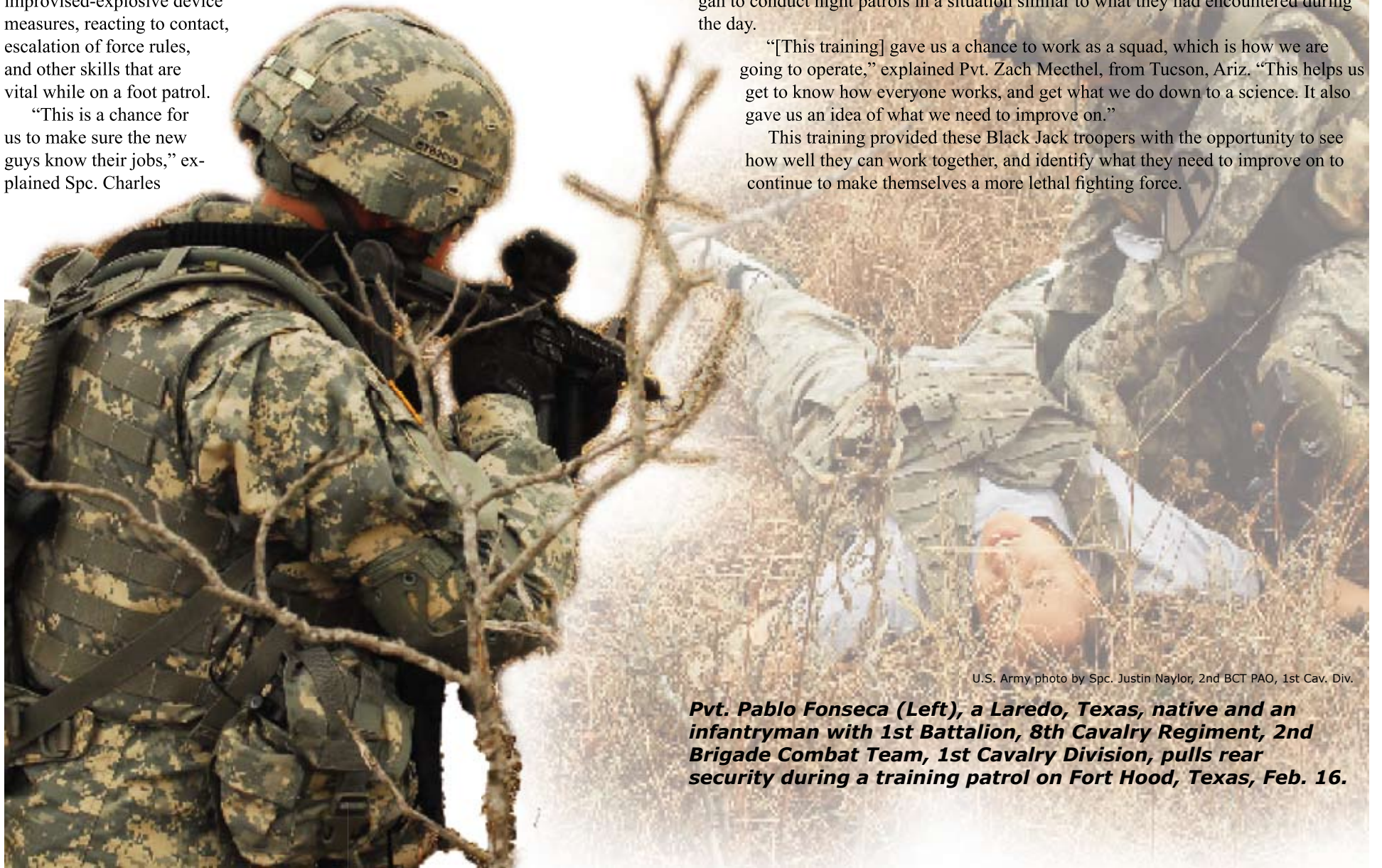
After successfully defeating the attack, Soldiers continued on to find a weapons cache, and then simulated calling in support from an explosive ordnance disposal team. Lastly, Soldiers encountered an armed but non-threatening civilian on the battlefield, and had to decide how they would handle the situation.

These are the basic skills that all infantrymen need to know how to do, and this is what they will build off of, said Wright.

Once all Soldiers had completed the training lanes and night had fallen, Soldiers began to conduct night patrols in a situation similar to what they had encountered during the day.

"[This training] gave us a chance to work as a squad, which is how we are going to operate," explained Pvt. Zach Mecthel, from Tucson, Ariz. "This helps us get to know how everyone works, and get what we do down to a science. It also gave us an idea of what we need to improve on."

This training provided these Black Jack troopers with the opportunity to see how well they can work together, and identify what they need to improve on to continue to make themselves a more lethal fighting force.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Justin Naylor, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div.

Pvt. Pablo Fonseca (Left), a Laredo, Texas, native and an infantryman with 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, pulls rear security during a training patrol on Fort Hood, Texas, Feb. 16.

You Tube



Visit the 1st Cavalry Division

ONLINE:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Daniel-B-Allyn/126474350717156>

<http://www.facebook.com/1stcavdiv>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/1cdwebmaster>

Live The Legend!

VETS4WARRIORS

★ ★ ★ 1-855-VET-TALK ★ ★ ★

**You're Not Alone
Anytime
Anywhere**

**Confidential soldier and family
counseling done by veterans.**

24/7 • Call • Live Chat

www.vets4warriors.com

1-855-VET-TALK



In partnership with University Behavioral HealthCare at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey



GHUZLANI WARRIOR TRAINING CENTER, Iraq – Iraqi soldiers assigned to 2nd Battalion, 11th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, practice room clearance techniques during a training course at Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, Feb 6. U.S. Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, added more urban operations training to the current battalion's rotation at GWTC to match their operational environment in and around the city of Mosul. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Shawn Miller, 109th MPAD, USD-N PAO)



THE CAVALRY CHARGE

1st Cavalry Division
Public Affairs Office

Commanding General:

Maj. Gen. Daniel Allyn

Public Affairs Officer:

Lt. Col. Chad Carroll

Public Affairs Chief:

Master Sgt. Nicholas Conner

Editor:

Sgt. Adam Turner

Staff Writers:

Staff Sgt. Kyle Richardson

Sgt. Kim Browne, Sgt. Robert Traxel, Sgt. Richard Wrigley

Spc. Justin Naylor, Spc. Terence Ewings, Spc. Sharla Lewis,

Spc. Bailey Jester, Spc. Angela Washington

Contributing:

Sgt. Shawn Miller ~ 109th MPAD, USD-N PAO

The Cavalry Charge:

Is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of this publication are not official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, Department of the Army, or the 1st Cavalry Division. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army, the 1st Cavalry, or The Cavalry Charge of the products advertised.

All editorial content of The Cavalry Charge is prepared, edited, provided and approved by 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs Office.

Do you have a story?

The Cavalry Charge welcomes columns, commentaries, articles, letters and photos from readers. Submissions should be sent to the Public Affairs NCOIC nicholas.conner@conus.army.mil and include author's name, rank, unit and contact information. The Cavalry Charge reserves the right to edit submissions selected for paper. For further information on deadlines, questions, comments or a request to be on our distribution list, email the Editor at phillip.turner1@conus.army.mil

First Team chemical Soldiers talk change

By Sgt. Kim Browne
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs Office

FORT HOOD, Texas – The high caliber operation tempo of today’s Army demands that Soldiers advancing through the ranks arm themselves with knowledge and new technology.

To meet this goal, 1st Cavalry Division leaders held a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) conference, Feb. 17, to educate all chemical corps Soldiers on Fort Hood about gains within their corps at Club Hood.

“I wanted to bring together the CBRN family and give them updates on things as the restructuring on the CBRN Corps, what direction we’re going in, the campaign plan for the chemical regiment and to keep everyone in touch,” said Sgt. Maj. Gilbert Hurte, the division’s CBRN and High-Yield Explosives sergeant major.

The conference started off with the CBRN Corps Vision Brief given by Col. Vance Visser, commandant, U.S. Army Chemical Regiment, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

“Every day Soldiers believe there isn’t much of a CBRN threat but actually the threat is there, and is growing, both overseas and at home,” Visser said.

Throughout the day the conference covered areas such as personnel development for both enlisted and officers, career development and mentorship, and personal development.

Former cavalry trooper, Sgt. Maj. Montonya Boozier, U.S. Army CBRN School per-

sonnel development sergeant major, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., touched on noncommissioned officer schools available, and which should be taken before promotion, within the chemical corps.

The final briefing of the day covered new equipment within the chemical corps highlighting the nuclear biological and chemical reconnaissance vehicle.

Laredo, Texas native, Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Gomez, a platoon sergeant with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cav. Div., covered the capabilities of the NBCRV and had two static displays set up outside of Club Hood for the Soldiers to see what the vehicle is all about.

“If you’re not in one of these crews you are not likely to see one of these vehicles,” Gomez said.

“[The conference] is a great opportunity for Soldiers who have never seen this vehicle or looked it over,” he added.

Many chemical corps Soldiers were in attendance and expressions of gratification were heard throughout.

“If it wasn’t for the conference I wouldn’t have known a lot of this information,” said Spc. Millan Maira, Company B, 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

The conference gave chemical corps Soldiers on Fort Hood the chance to expand their knowledge and increase their awareness of the many changing aspects within their job field.



U.S Army photo by Sgt. Kim Browne, 1st Cav. Div. PAO

Col. Vance Visser, commandant for the chemical corps, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., talks with chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear Soldiers, Feb. 17, about the CBRN Corps vision for today and the future at Club Hood.



THE SOLDIER EQUIPMENT & TECHNOLOGY EXPO & CONFERENCE IS COMING TO FORT HOOD, MARCH 28-29, 2011 AT CLUB HOOD. WITH TWO DAYS OF COMPLIMENTARY PRESENTATIONS AND DEMONSTRATIONS PROVIDING INSIGHTS ON NEXT GENERATION WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY, ENHANCING SOLDIER ABILITY, PORTABLE POWER, AND GEAR REQUIREMENTS, SOLDIER EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY IS YOUR ONE STOP EVENT FOR ALL THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY AND INSIGHTS.

Hear presentations from leaders in the industry on:
Developing Next Generation Weapons Technology
PM IED Defeat/Protect Force (PM IEDD/ PF) Contributions to the C-IED Fight
Improving Lethality with Innovative Soldier Equipment
Advanced Sighting Systems and Counter- Sniper Technology

Featured speakers include:
MG William F. Grimsley,
Deputy Commanding General, III Corps

4th AAB infantrymen, IA train on M16 rifles

Spc. Terence Ewings
4th Advise and Assist Brigade Public Affairs

JOINT SECURITY STATION INDIA, Iraq – Troops assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, taught Iraqi Army soldiers basic rifle marksmanship skills, Feb. 6.

“Ghost” Troops of the 2nd Bn., 7th Cav. Regt. trained IA units from 2nd Iraqi Army Division in northern Iraq during a five-day class to enhance the marksmanship skills of the Iraqi soldiers.

“Training the IA keeps me sharp on my skills and makes me more proficient in knowing the material and being able to teach it,” said Spc. Gregory Cole, an infantryman from Windsor, Conn., assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Bn., 7th Cav. Regt.

The Ghost Soldiers continue to teach soldiers from 2nd IA Div. basic marksmanship skills in preparation for Operation Lion Leader Forge, a series of training exercises centered on teaching Iraqi soldiers to train their own units.

During the weapons familiarization

training, U.S. Soldiers introduced their IA counterparts to the M16A4 rifle and demonstrated how to disassemble, reassemble, clear and perform a functions check on the weapon.

After learning basic preliminary marksmanship techniques, the Iraqi soldiers tested their newly acquired skills with U.S. Soldiers providing assistance as needed.

“We’re here to train these soldiers, and even though this is the first day of training, the Iraqis we are teaching are stepping up, learning quickly and attempting to help their fellow soldiers out ...,” said Cole.

After the IA soldiers demonstrated proficiency assembling and disassembling the M16, U.S. Soldiers taught them the correct way to engage an enemy and fire from the standing, prone and kneeling positions.

“This is very good training,” said Pfc. Karar Ali, an Iraqi infantryman from Karbala. “The Soldiers that are teaching us are very experienced and are making this class easy for us to understand.”

At the end of the day, the Soldiers held competitions with their IA counterparts to



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Terence Ewings, 4th AAB PAO, 1st Cav. Div., USD-N

Spc. Ralph Hueffmeir, an infantryman from Saint Charles, Miss., assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, assists an Iraqi Army soldier in disassembling an M16A4 rifle during a marksmanship class, Feb. 6. Ghost troops trained IA units from 2nd Iraqi Army Division in northern Iraq to enhance Iraqi soldiers’ marksmanship skills.

test the Iraqis’ speed, accuracy and overall proficiency in assembling and disassembling the M16.

“Ghost” troops also used the contests as an opportunity to bond with their IA counterparts.



*The Congressional Medal of Honor is awarded to
Captain Jon E. Swanson 1st Battalion,
9th Cavalry Regiment*

FEB 26
1971

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

CITATION:

Rank: Captain
Organization: U.S. Army
Company: Company B
Division: 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment
Born: May 1, 1942 Denver, Colorado
Entered Service At: Colorado State University
Place / Date: Cambodia, 26 February, 1971

Captain Jon E. Swanson distinguished himself by acts of bravery on February 26, 1971, while flying an OH-6A aircraft in support of ARVN Task Force 333 in the Kingdom of Cambodia. With two well-equipped enemy regiments known to be in the area, Captain Swanson was tasked with pinpointing the enemy's precise positions. Captain Swanson flew at treetop level at a slow airspeed, making his aircraft a vulnerable target.

The advancing ARVN unit came under heavy automatic weapons fire from enemy bunkers 100 meters to their front. Exposing his aircraft to enemy anti-aircraft fire, Captain Swanson immediately engaged the enemy bunkers with concussion grenades and machine gun fire. After destroying five bunkers and evading intense ground-to-air fire, he observed a .51 caliber machine gun position. With all his heavy ordnance expended on the bunkers, he did not have sufficient explosives to destroy the position. Consequently, he marked the position with a smoke grenade and directed a Cobra gun ship attack.

After completion of the attack, Captain Swanson found the weapon still intact and an enemy soldier crawling over to man it. He immediately engaged the individual and killed him. During this time, his aircraft sustained several hits from another .51 caliber machine gun. Captain Swanson engaged the position with his aircraft's weapons, marked the target, and directed a second Cobra gun ship attack. He volunteered to continue the mission, despite the fact that he was now critically low on ammunition and his aircraft was crippled by enemy fire. As Captain Swanson attempted to fly toward another .51 caliber machine gun position, his aircraft exploded in the air and crashed to the ground, causing his death. Captain Swanson's courageous actions resulted in at least eight enemy killed and the destruction of three enemy anti-aircraft weapons. Captain Swanson's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



Greywolf leaders set stage for transition at Stability Academy

By Maj. Harold Huff III

3rd AAB PAO, 1st Cav. Div.

VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Iraq - Commanders, select staff officers and stability transition team (STT) members from the 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, attended the Stability Academy at Camp Victory in Baghdad to study the current situation in Iraq, Feb. 10-15.

The academy trains leaders on the importance of understanding Iraqi culture, issues and the current social-political environment. Leaders pass on these lessons to their Soldiers who, due to their interaction with Iraqi security forces, ultimately have the greatest impact on improving security and governance which benefits all Iraqi people.

"The training here really helped focus us on the mission at hand," said Maj. Alex Sterea, an STT member from Newport News, Va. "Not only does it provide a common operating picture for leaders, the depth of the training was such that we can go back and provide our Soldiers with practical and relevant information in theater."

As the mission in Iraq has changed from combat operations to stability operations, the academy was established as a place where leaders expand their knowledge of Iraq and Operation New Dawn. The focus now is on strengthening the ISF by advising, training, and assisting them; building Iraq's civil capacity by providing a secure environment; and partnering with the U.S. embassy in Baghdad to enable a successful transition.

Training topics included Army stability operations doctrine, the current political and social framework, information operations, the advise, train and assist model, and an overview of the security agreement and strategic framework agreement both signed in 2008.

The latter documents are agreements between the U.S. and the government of Iraq that provide context for everything U.S. personnel do in Iraq.

Greywolf's leaders conducted multiple advanced cultural training events and Iraqi government classes prior to attending the Stability Academy; which is the culminating training event prior to the brigade assuming their area of responsibility for the next year.

Previous events included the Leader Training Program both at Fort Hood, Texas and the National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin, Calif., in August and September 2010, a month-long NTC rotation at Fort Irwin in November 2010, a battle command seminar in December and a Leader Development and Education for Sustained Peace seminar last month at Fort Hood.

Stability Academy cadre consisted of service members and civilian contractors with relevant military experience and expertise. Numerous general officers and special guest speakers came to discuss the impact of this mission.

Most notably, Gen. Lloyd Austin III, commanding general of United States Forces—Iraq, spoke to brigade leaders about the current operating environment in United States Division—South's sector. Special emphasis was placed on the importance of cultivating enduring partnerships, focusing economic development efforts and strengthening the Iraqi security forces.

"You could tell how critical the academy was by the skill level of the facilitators and the emphasis placed on this training by different echelons of United States Forces Iraq command," explained Maj. William Mott, an STT member from Brooklyn, N.Y. "The instructors gave us an over-arching picture of OND and keys to success in planning to support Iraqi security force and government of Iraq capabilities."

Before departing, instructors left leaders in attendance with closing thoughts. They keyed in on the importance of a thorough transition with Iraqi partners and how their accomplishments over the next year will have an exponential effect on the enduring relationship between the United States and Iraq.

With a challenging and unique mission ahead, the leaders of the Greywolf brigade look forward to their roles in shaping the future of a peaceful Iraq through building key relationships today.